

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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2006 Recycling Rates for NH Municipalities

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has released the 2006 solid waste recycling rates for all New Hampshire municipalities. Overall, the state municipal recycling rate averaged 20.6%. Municipal solid waste budgets total over \$100 million for the state and the per capita expense to dispose of solid waste is approximately \$77.

Increasing the recycling rate can have a beneficial effect on the town budget. DES estimates that the total municipal budget could be reduced by \$1 million for every 1 percent increase in the rate. Municipalities can increase recycling by educating their citizens in effective recycling and by instituting incentive programs such as Pay as You Throw. Towns should encourage their citizens to participate in household hazardous waste diversion programs in order to prevent hazardous materials from being sent to landfills and incinerators.

Among the towns that have high recycling rates are Lancaster and Littleton, both of which have pay as you throw programs. The towns of Lyme, Goshen and Canterbury have recently started pay as you throw programs and are seeing remarkable increases in recycling and decreases in overall cost to dispose of waste. There are 46 towns in the state that have pay as you throw in place and another 112 have some form of charge for special items such as furniture, appliances, or electronics.

The report is available on the DES website at http://des.nh.gov/SWTAS/pdf/rec_mun.pdf. For more information about the report, please contact Don Maurer at (603) 271-3713.

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